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Summary Report

AIRFIELD CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITY NORTH KOREA

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AIRFIELD CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITY, NORTH KOREA

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Continuing construction activity was observed at three new jet-capable airfields in North Korea. The new airfields (Figure 1) are Kuum-ni at 38-51-45N 127-54-19E, Nuchon-ni at 38-14-10N 126-07-30E, and Kunson at 40-21-30N 128-43-00E. Each new airfield is near an existing highway airstrip and is not yet operational.

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Construction was initially observed at Kuum-ni Airfield. Kuum-ni Airfield is adjacent to Kojo Highway Airstrip approximately 50 kilometers (km) from the demilitarized zone (DMZ). Initial concrete paving was observed at the northeast end of the runway. Two aircraft storage tunnels were under construction, and blast walls had been built in front of each entrance. A dispersal taxiway connecting the airfield to the storage tunnels was under construction. In addition, construction had begun on four hangar bays. Two were in the midstage of construction and the other two were in the foundation stage. When complete, the runway at Kuum-ni will be approximately 2,600 meters long.

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Nuchon-ni Airfield was first observed under construction. Nuchon-ni Airfield, approximately 64 km from the DMZ, is situated between two highway airstrips—Ayang-ni approximately 13 km to the west, and Nuchon-ni approximately 12 km to the east. Grading for the runway was continuing on 20

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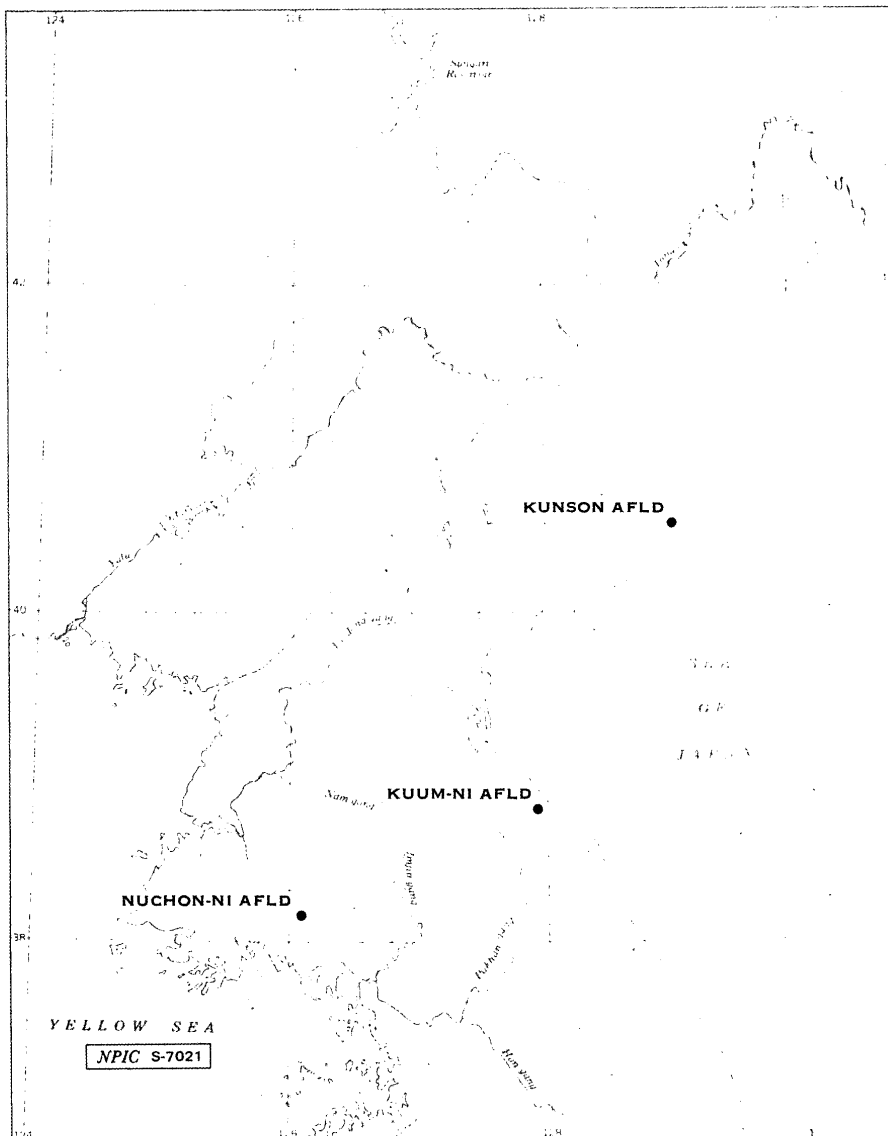


FIGURE 1. LOCATIONS OF JET-CAPABLE AIRFIELDS UNDER CONSTRUCTION IN NORTH KOREA

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[redacted] This runway will be approximately 2,500 meters long when complete. An aircraft parking apron was being paved with concrete at the east end of the runway. Construction was also continuing on two aircraft storage tunnels and a dispersal taxiway. 25X1

[redacted] Construction of Kunson Airfield was initially observed [redacted] 25X1

[redacted] The airfield is along the northeast coast, approximately 7 km northeast of Kunson and approximately 15 km southwest of Tanchon South Highway Strip [redacted] 25X1

[redacted] Extensive grading for the runway, parallel taxiway, and parking apron was observed [redacted] 25X1

[redacted] Concrete paving had not commenced. Construction was continuing on the two aircraft storage tunnels (one not illustrated); blast walls had been erected and protective doors installed on at least one tunnel entrance. When complete, the runway will be approximately 2,440 meters long. 25X1

[redacted] The completion of these three new airfields will increase the number of jet-capable airfields in North Korea to 25, with a total of 47 aircraft storage tunnels and 34 hangarages. This continued emphasis on the construction of airfields containing hardened aircraft storage facilities and on the strategic placement of airfields in North Korea is indicative of an increasing concern with force survivability in the event of hostilities. 25X1

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